

# FRENCH INDUSTRIAL LIFE WILL SURVIVE WAR'S WASTE

**The World's Market for the Artistic Products of French Genius Not Circled by an Iron Ring—Country Is in Better Position Than Germany to Regain Her Foreign Markets When Struggle Is Ended**

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**F**RENCH commerce, like that of the other countries, suffers tremendously by the war. Yet no iron ring circles the globe to hem it in. While the immediate war waste is fearful, when the belligerent nations are done with rending one another it probably will be found that the foreign markets for French products are not lost or permanently impaired.

Have, Brest and the other ports on the Atlantic suffer now in the inability to handle the cargoes that formerly were imported for home consumption and for redistribution. Marseilles, on the Mediterranean, would be less affected provided the industries of the country were operating normally.

Have, as the distributing port for cacao, rubber and coffee, finds its commercial activities almost paralyzed because there is a market for these products. Swiss chocolate industries suffering along with those of France, because their supply of cacao has been obtained through Have.

Notwithstanding the war waste, a change in fashions would cause as much loss to some of the French industries as the war itself. In a large measure French foreign commerce is a commerce of luxuries, so far as the exports are concerned, since the paradox of luxuries becoming a necessity exists this commerce will be the first to recuperate.

Silks, laces, dry goods and millinery are not usually measured in tons. But when 15,000 to 20,000 tons of Persian novelties and 15,000 tons of silk goods and silk are commonly included in the export tables of a year's exports, while the cotton goods exceed 50,000 tons, something of the nature of the French industries which form the basis of the country's foreign trade may be understood. It is the same with pottery, where weight counts and where Limoges maintains the front rank.

Champagnes and other French wines by their cost always will be accounted luxurious necessities. The vintage in a good year amounts to 1,500,000 gallons, and the value of the grape crop converted into juice ranges from \$300,000,000 to \$350,000,000. Measured in liquid metric tons the exports range from 200,000 tons upward.

Notwithstanding the development of domestic wine industries in other countries, the shutting off of the French wines for a single season is only apt to whet the appetite. The war will not hurt the French wine foreign trade beyond the period when production is curtailed through the absorption of the wine-growers into the French armies.

The French chemical industries suffering along with other industries; yet here too French excellence on the aesthetic and artistic side of manufacture is an insurance against a permanent loss of this market in foreign countries. The same observation applies to autos and airplanes and other air craft, in the manufacture of which France took the lead as soon as the practical ability of navigating the air was demonstrated.

The iron and steel industries of France, like those of other countries, are the basis of much of the national prosperity and enter into the foreign commerce appreciably. Here too the artistic side of the French character appears. The Croisot works may not rival the Krupp works in their immensity, but in some of the South American countries they have obtained orders in competition with their solid British and German competitors because the South Americans liked artistic iron and steel work.

In the manufacture of light rails no country has been able to reach the French standard. For example, there are few large sugar plantations in any part of the world which are not equipped with the Deconville rails for their transportation systems.

The basis of the French iron and steel industries are the ore deposits of the Marthe-Meuse district and enough coal deposits to supply the bulk of the fuel that is needed for industrial purposes. Discoveries within the last few years have increased the value of the Marthe-Meuse deposits. The historical old town of Nancy, which is so near the frontier as the center of the district, has taken on considerable activity.

France imports ore from Spain and Sweden to supplement her native supply, but the facilities for assembling the new materials are as good as those of Belgium or Germany, and therefore French iron and steel works are able to compete with them abroad in such products as they care to compete in. About 2,000,000 tons of pig iron are produced annually by the French blast furnaces, and this quantity is sufficient to supply the raw material for the highly finished products that bear the stamp of the artistic instinct of the French artisan.

Looking over the neutral markets of the world in the present war situation, South America and the United States and possibly the Orient are the only sections which may be said to be untouched. The great war may be eliminated for the time being.

In South America Brazil and Argentina furnish the chief market for French products. They also are important sources of supply to France, because of Argentine grain and other food products annually. Argentina absorbs 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 of French products in return. Brazil sends to France about \$25,000,000 of coffee, rubber and other tropical products, and in return takes \$15,000,000 to \$17,000,000 of French manufactured products.

While the South American imports from France inevitably will suffer by the war, the observation that there will be no permanent loss of market applies to them with special force. As soon as it can get them again, South America will be taking large quantities of French dry goods and similar specialties, much of which will come through the parcel post. French electrical apparatus of an artistic character and French steel rails and light railway materials will also be in demand.

French trade with the United States suffers a serious interruption. France imports in normal years something like \$17,000,000 from this country. Cotton

and copper are the principal raw materials. The Southern cotton fields are already feeling the inability of the French textile industries to work their product into finished material.

The Western wheat fields and flour mills will feel it unless contracts made before the war broke out can be fulfilled. France, however, depends more on Argentina and on Rumania and other parts of continental Europe for her cereal food supply than on the United States.

The restricted activities of the French Government tobacco monopoly is a serious thing for Virginia and other tobacco growing States, since the American tobacco which France absorbs is about \$5,000,000 annually.

While the French industries are largely supplied with tools and metal working machinery by their own industries, in other forms of machinery the dependence on the United States is marked. Imports of American machinery range from \$10,000,000 to \$11,000,000, and many American mills are found to feel the interruption of this demand.

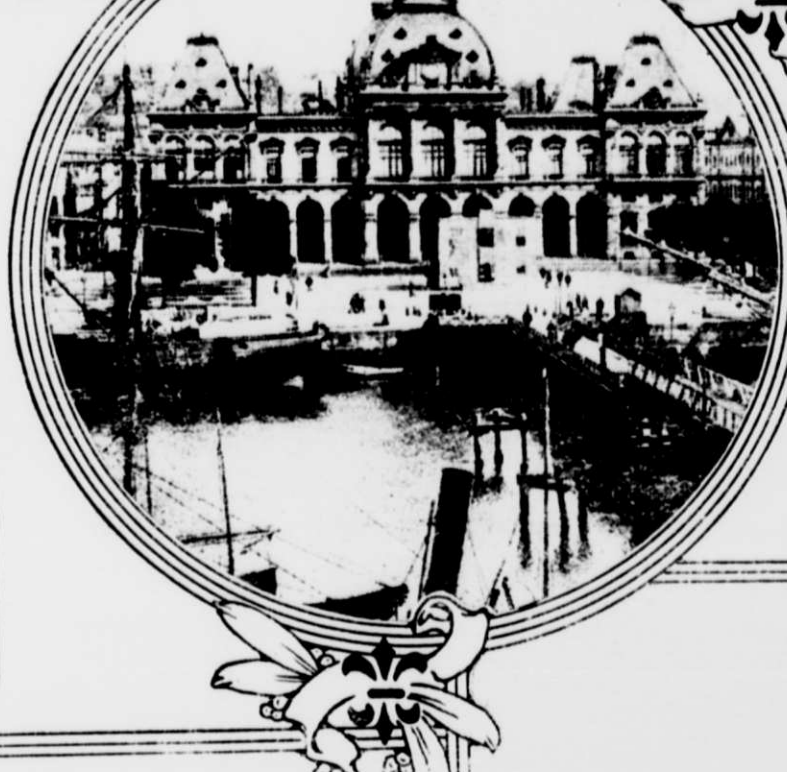
The market for American agricultural machinery is not large since the International Harvester Corporation established factories of its own in France. These are located at Roubaix, near the Belgian border. Roubaix was occupied by the German armies a most as soon as the border was crossed.

American imports from France, which are interrupted by the war, include textiles and fine dry goods, and the wide class of artistic articles which are usually described as Parisian novelties. Fine china and glassware are also important, as are certain chemical products. Wines are of consequence to individuals, but they do not form a heavy item, since the importations amount to only about one million gallons.

Manufacturers can judge for themselves their ability to manufacture the



Tangiers, France's Colonial Empire—Departure of a caravan from Biskra.



The Joliette quay and cathedral.



Snake charmers of Tangiers. Above—The Bourse and commerce basin at Havre.

The French colonies in the Indian Ocean are little known, although frequently described. Recently France has declared the Great Comoros, Mayotte and other small islands French territory, and has placed them under the administrative control of the Madagascar authorities. France has spent on her West Africa possessions and Madagascar nearly \$100,000,000. She has not yet got this back in the way of trade, but the commerce is a valuable one, and in the end is expected to more than justify the expense.

French Indo-China occupies a position somewhat different from other French colonial possessions, and internationally

and the rest of the world shares the remaining 10 per cent.

The preferential tariff policy, with various modifications, is applied to the different colonial possessions. It affords French colonies a preferential tariff of Canada and other self-governing British colonies in that, while France gets a preference, she also gives the colonial products a preference. While Great Britain does not. Moreover, the French colonies are not, like the majority of British colonies, self-governing and do not fix their own tariffs.

France has a merchant marine that is commensurate with her foreign commerce. French shipping has been encouraged by the Government through

shipping lines will come out of the war without a great loss of vessels. In the case of South America, which is one of the best markets for French specialties, the demand will not be curtailed by a year's interruption of the supply. The French railway enterprises in Argentina and Brazil also will continue to depend on the French mills for their steel rails and equipment.

They can get along for a year or more without additional purchases, and when the time does come they will be in the market for heavy supplies. The only question will be how and the prostra of French iron and steel industries will be able to meet the demand.

French markets in the countries actually engaged in the war are bound to suffer enormously in the period that will come when the war waste must be repaired. As a creditor country of the most every borrowing nation in the world, France, in making loans, usually has secured important concessions for her capitalists.

Large investments have been made by them in construction and other enterprises, the material for which, of course, came from France. The French loans in Turkey always have carried with them industrial and similar enterprises, and have opened a wide market for French construction material.

France also loaned money to Serbia, and in floating the loan, although Serbia is not much of a customer for French goods, the commercial side of the transaction was not overlooked.

A few years ago when the German banks were hard pressed in financing the various industrial enterprises with which they are identified and when the political relations between the two countries happened to be unusually cordial, large sums of French money were loaned in Germany. These loans, however, were of a temporary nature, and it is not likely that large sums of French money were invested in Germany at the outbreak of hostilities.

French investments in the United States have not been large, and the experience with one railway company whose bonds were listed on the Paris Bourse did not encourage further investments. Yet France undoubtedly now would be much better off if some of her surplus millions had gone into American securities, for there would be the certainty of realizing on them. French trade with the United States, since it consists of luxuries and high class articles and not of construction material, is not dependent on the import of the French investments.

Taking the situation generally, and keeping in mind the nature of the world's demand for French goods and the probable emergence of the merchant marine without serious loss, France is in a better position than Germany, her great war rival, to regain her foreign markets when the struggle is ended. If she keeps her colonial possessions unimpaired this colonial market also will be one of her swiftest sources of recuperation.

## Infantry Decides the Battle

While there have been many discussions as to the relative value of the different branches of an army there is no doubt according to a writer in the special war number of the *Scientific American*, but that it is the infantry that wins battles.

While it is probable the success of a battle will depend to a large extent on the support of the field artillery, it is certain that the practical and most important arm is the infantry, which in practically every case must decide the final issue. The cavalry may be the first to be drawn into a battle and the artillery may destroy the enemy's artillery, but a battle is never won until the infantry has driven back the enemy's lines.

The usual mode of advancing for the infantry is to deploy them in a line with a long interval between each soldier. This naturally is for the purpose of offering a smaller target for the enemy. It makes it more difficult, however, for the leaders to keep as good control over the men, and for that reason one of the objects of field artillery is to make the enemy's troops deploy early.

## MIGHTY WRESTLERS OF JAPAN

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noon under the critical eyes of an audience of judo enthusiasts. For me, however, the afternoon of practice was never as attractive. The contestants were nearly all university men, high commercial school men, artists, Government officials, fine open faced clean limber young fellows to a man.

Prof. Kano, a most agreeable, gentlemanly man with a black mustache, sat at a table and explained much of the system to me and its effect in making for true manliness of character. In the hall I met Prof. Yamashita, who taught judo to Theodore Roosevelt at the White House three times a week for three years. Theodore, he said, was his best pupil; that, however, he was very heavy and very impetuous, and it had cost the poor professor many bruises, much worry and infinite pains during Theodore's rushes to avoid having the President of the United States. He had

also taught the Roosevelt boys, Mrs. Robinson, the President's sister, and Gifford Pinchot. He liked Washington and America.

Another day I went to a fencing class and I think it is the noisiest sport I ever witnessed. There were about twenty couples in action, wielding two handed swords made of a number of bamboo rods bound together. The men wore a sort of medieval armor. There is doubtless much skill in it, but it looked like the greatest Doolittle you can imagine. They leaped at each other with a roar, swinging the sword with two hands, throwing their weight on the blows, dashing in all directions, pushing the other chap with the hilt and guard, and yelling to admiration. They made more noise than a boiler factory, and they only rested when they were breathless.

Young Japan is surely full of vim and his sports are vehicles of struggle and nervous skill as brute force.

articles which command a market in the United States because of their fine quality and because of their being French specialties, but this field does not seem to be one that is especially inviting.

The greatest war stake, commercially as well as politically, is the French colonial empire. At the outbreak of hostilities London despatches claimed that the Kaiser, as an inducement for England to remain neutral, had offered to give guarantees against annexation of French territory on the Continent. But no such guarantees were offered as to French colonial possessions. In fact, the partition of the colonies as spoils of war was intimated.

There can be no question as to the value of the French colonies as territorial possessions of any European world trade. If the Kaiser were able to annex a few hundred thousand square miles of French colonial territory he would be more than compensated for the charges which the Morocco incident caused him, although that settlement conceded to Germany large areas of territory in equatorial Africa.

Almost unnoticed, France, in the twentieth century, has been building up a

colonial empire responsive to the colonial policy of Cardinal Richelieu centuries ago. This has been going on for more than a quarter of a century, until now France exercises dominion over 10,000,000 colonial subjects. The plan pursued has been systematic and with the purpose of securing permanent results.

The French people are home stayers rather than colonizers. Nevertheless, no trouble is found in securing plenty of capable administrators, and in some places there are a considerable number of traders and merchants. It is, however, with the native population of the different colonies that France has worked so successfully to extend her influence and strengthen her armed forces.

How great is the warrior force from her different possessions that she can command in the present struggle is yet to be determined. But the appearance of the Turco regulars from Algeria and Senegal and their capacity as fighters were noted in the first skirmishes in Alsace-Lorraine.

The French colonial possessions bordering the Mediterranean mean are of course the greatest war prize. To offset the

preponderant French influence in Morocco and to absorb Algeria and Tunisia would be a tremendous gain for Germany. They may almost be considered as a part of Europe. Even Sahara has its value.

The bulk of the white population of the French colonial empire is in Algeria and Tunis, where there are colonies that of many independent kingdoms; for Algeria it amounts to figures approximating \$240,000,000.

French equatorial Africa, which means the Congo and the contiguous country, in area is vast, though its commerce is now only \$10,000,000. Its resources of rubber are just beginning to be developed, while its cabinet woods are being exploited systematically and experiments are being made looking to the growing of cotton.

For the purpose of developing the natural resources the French Government has approved a comprehensive scheme of public works to be based on a loan of \$35,000,000, of which \$20,000,000 is to be devoted to railway purposes. The most important railway line to be built is that connecting Brazzaville, the capital of the French Congo, with the coast.

has a different status. It consists of the colony of Cochinchina and Tonkin, Annam and the other protectorates. But for all international purposes it is French through and through. The population is about 18,000,000 and there is a foreign commerce approximating \$100,000,000.

French colonial administration is admitted to be good. In many respects the French colonies compare with those of Great Britain as regards the native races. It is not assumed that the natives have any inherent rights in their own countries, but so long as they accept French overlordship they are well treated and are protected. There is more bureaucracy and more of the military administration than in the British colonies of subject peoples.

Much diversity in the forms of administration exists, due to differing circumstances. In Madagascar France rules with an iron hand and with little regard for native susceptibilities. In Algeria, which has a large white population, the administration is bureaucratic but not oppressive. The high class Arabs have a notable participation in the affairs of the colony and are said to be more than satisfied with French rule.

Visitors to the various international exhibitions have been given excellent opportunities to observe the workings of the French colonial system. At the Chicago exposition Ducloux was a great attraction, largely because of its novelty, but at subsequent exhibitions Algeria usually was the model colonial exhibit.

France's American colonies are hardly to be considered as being in the class with her equatorial and Far East possessions. The islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off Newfoundland, are interesting chiefly as a reminiscence of the time when the Newfoundland banks were of great importance to the French fisheries and were also an element in the French marine.

Guadeloupe and Martinique in the West India group occupy a different status. From the time of the French revolution they have been self-governing, with representation in the French Parliament. Though their commerce is not great their strategic position is of some importance to France. It would be of much greater importance to the United States should Germany win a world triumph and insist on possession of Guadeloupe and Martinique in order to give her the coveted base in the West Indies.

That the French statements of the present day who have developed the colonial policy are thinking of a trade empire as well as a political appanage is shown by the tariff policy. All the world is free to buy the natural products of the French colonial possessions, but all the world is not free to sell goods to the colonies on the same terms as France. For example, in Indo-China about 40 per cent of the foreign trade is with the neighboring countries, 50 per cent is with France,